

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

26 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Charles E. Waterman, Vice Chairman
National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT : Appearance Before House Foreign Affairs Committee,
26 October 1983

1. This session, handled by Graham Fuller, John Helgersen, and the undersigned, seemed to go well. The Committee appeared satisfied with our presentation and answers, which generally were along the following lines:

- Much evidence, albeit technically circumstantial, exists to brand Iran as responsible for the action via Lebanese Shia groups. No credible evidence directly implicating Syria in the action against the Marines exists, but they certainly control the territory in East Lebanon, and could impede transit of Damascus of supplies and elements destined for Iranian supported groups. The Syrians must also in general know the intentions of these groups.
- We do not see much likelihood for the emergence of genuine reconciliation among Lebanese factions in the next six months. We pointed out to Chairman Hamilton that the timeframe of the NIE's judgments was six months, a fact on which he was confused. While not overly optimistic, the Intelligence Community is not ruling out the possibility of reconciliation over the longer run.
- In the intermediate future, the country is proceeding toward a loose confederal arrangement in which a great deal of autonomy is held by the disparate ethnic groups. At the same time, a relatively weak central government would continue to exist. Such a situation may in fact endure for some time, and could meet many of the essential requirements of the various Lebanese and international actors.

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